
To prevent and treat disease and disability; to promote healthy lifestyles; and to protect and promote the health and quality of our environment.

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**BUCKLING UP SAVES PAIN, SUFFERING, LIVES AND
MONEY**

The choice to not buckle up affects all Idahoans. In addition to the pain, suffering and lost lives, last year, motor vehicle crashes cost Idahoans \$1.6 billion. The public pays for seventy percent of all motor vehicle crash costs in the form of higher taxes and higher health and vehicle insurance premiums.

The cost of injuries for people not using safety restraints is \$217 million more than for those who do use safety restraints. Most of that \$217 million – in productivity losses, property damages, medical costs, rehabilitation costs, travel delays, legal and court costs, emergency service costs, insurance administration costs, premature funeral expenses and costs to employers – is not paid by the individuals involved but is passed on to the general public. The public absorbs the cost through taxes, insurance premiums, direct out-of-pocket payments and increased charges. Medicare, Medicaid and other taxpayer-funded sources pay 24 percent of all the costs for traffic accident victims

“Patients hospitalized at Saint Al’s Trauma Center that didn’t buckle up had a 9% higher mortality rate, stayed in the hospital 1/3 longer, and cost \$750 more per day. Non seatbelt users also required 22% more post discharge nursing care,” according to Chris Marselle, RN, Director at Saint Alphonsus Trauma Center and I-BELT Coalition Chairperson.

The choice to buckle up affects all Idahoans. Buckle up – it’s such a simple way to save pain and suffering, lives and money.

For more information about Central District Health Department, visit our web site at www.cdhd.org.

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